

Presentation 5b – H. Liesel Copeland

Evaluating a bio-terrorism preparedness campaign for veterans

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- Sites:
 - VISN 3, VISN 4, VISN5, VISN16, VISN21, VISN22

Rationale

- Greatest pay off in fighting bio-terrorism lies in improving our response by being prepared
- The majority of existing educational and preparation material is targeted for providers or emergency responders
- This project aims to close the gap by producing materials for the public, beginning with veterans.

Objectives

- 1. To develop educational material for veterans which will provide information about bio-terrorism and coping mechanisms for dealing with such a disaster.
- 2. To evaluate using a study-developed survey and other measures the effectiveness of such material in improving knowledge, coping mechanisms and confidence in the VA as well as decreasing anxiety over a future occurrence.
- 3. To compare the overall effectiveness of such material when delivered to veterans via the Internet as opposed to a standard printed version.
- 4. To establish a mechanism allowing for the future comparison of health care utilization patterns in response to a bio-terrorism disaster in those veterans receiving the education and improved survey scores with those with no improved scores

Project Phases

- Conduct focus groups with veterans to identify content areas
- Develop and pilot questionnaire
- Write materials, review with ID experts, MH experts, Risk communication experts, Patient Ed experts
- Pilot test educational materials in focus groups
- Administer materials in hospital and community based settings with VA and non-VA user veterans. Utilize pre-post questionnaire.